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Maine Bisexual People's Network Newsletter, November 1991

P.O. Box 10772, Portland, ME 04104

I'm back from my trip and excited about getting more network activity going here. Talking with bis and bi-friendly people from here to Omaha and back raised my hopes and energies. We are everywhere!

Our fall meeting will be on Nov. 24, 1991, from 2 to 4 pm in Portland. If you are interested in attending, call Bobbi at [REDACTED] (Please do not share this phone number with anyone else.) We'll be spending some of the time just getting acquainted and socializing. Then, one of our members has kindly offered to lead us in a brainstorming session to decide what we want for and from our network. Bring your ideas, suggestions, and questions. Also bring something for the potluck snacks.

If you can't come to this meeting, perhaps you would like to write or phone and let me/us know your wishes for the network and the best days and times for you to attend future meetings. (I'm looking for a meeting place further north for later meetings but haven't been able to arrange anything yet. Suggestions welcome.)

One of the things we find whenever there is a meeting like this is that some people are out - at least to themselves - as bis. Others are questioning whether or not the identity fits for them. And some of us are just confused. All of these are ok places to be, and you are welcome to bring your indecisions, doubts, and confusions to the meetings, whether or not you want to share them with others. (I talked with someone recently who said he attended our meetings for a long time, mostly listening and watching, and then was able to identify as gay and leave our group. He said meeting with us was a necessary step in his process of finding his identity. I was delighted to hear we had been so helpful to him in choosing what was most appropriate.)

I'm enclosing information about the **BiNet Newsletter**. Some of you may want to subscribe and/or contribute to this interesting national periodical.

MBPN has a loaner copy of **Bi Any Other Name**, a wonderful book of 75 bis' stories. It comes close to being a one volume support group. If you want to borrow it, plan to return it in about 3 weeks and be willing to pay the postage. Other books and periodicals will be available for perusal at the meeting.

Please note that **Our Paper** usually has a section titled "LesBiGay Network" which gives contact information and meeting times for groups all over the state including ours. Letters to the editor thanking her for including bis will help to raise the consciousness of staff and readers. (You don't have to sign your name; or you can sign your name on the letter and ask that it not be used if your letter is published.) If you do write, also consider asking **Our Paper** to be bi-inclusive on its masthead and content. Right now, it says "A voice for lesbians and

gay men in Maine." They could add bisexuals or just be "a voice for sexual minorities in Maine." Bi content would be wonderful.

Out & Out Productions sent us an announcement of a benefit dance for the Maine Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. The dance is 9 pm, Thurs., Nov. 21, at Zootz, 31 Forest Ave., Portland. Tickets \$5. You could help raise Out & Out's consciousness by dropping them a line asking to have bi films included. P.O. Box 7982, Portland, ME 04112. Tel.: 828-4714. You could mention that Wayne Bryant of the East Coast Bisexual Network is writing a book on bis in film and provided enough films to keep two theaters filled at the June Bi Fest - held in conjunction with the Boston Pride March. If you do write, you don't have to use your name.

The most recent **Maine Progressive** carried news that Maine State employees are organizing a Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual caucus. Contacts: Sharon Sandstrom 626-0145 or Ellie Goldberg 763-3838.

Am Chofshi is Maine's Jewish Lesbian/Gay/ Bisexual Chavurah. They have monthly potluck meetings at members' homes. For information, call Bob at [REDACTED] or Susan at [REDACTED] or write to PO Box 5017, Portland, ME 04101.

Artists out there? I'm working on a way to incorporate the bi pride logo into a distinctive **MBPN logo**. In color, the Pride logo has overlapping pink and blue equilateral triangles which make a lavender triangle where they overlap. On a newsletter, these reproduce as shades of gray. We need something which will look ok in black and white and relate to Maine. See my attempts on this newsletter and give me some help.

PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) meets monthly in Brunswick. Despite its title, parents of bis are welcome as are bi parents of bis (that's me.) I'd be delighted to have your help in developing their bi awareness.

Maine also has a **gay/lesbian parents group**. Altho I haven't yet been able to attend a meeting, I'm told we are welcome and that the group will consider changing its name to be bi-inclusive. Interested?

A **Unitarian Universalist Bisexual Network** has formed. This is probably the first bi network within any religious denomination. \$10 to UUBN, P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME, 04104 will get you a packet which includes the quarterly newsletter, the International Directory of Bisexual Groups, a bibliography, and several other items of interest.

Boston's monthly bi brunch is Nov. 16. Meet at 10:45 at the S & S deli, 1334 Cambridge St. (Inman Square), Cambridge. Info: (617) BIS-MOVE.

Some wonderful non-bi women at SUNY Albany have volunteered to use their expertise to help make **bi literature available to the visually impaired**. We hope to marry computer and publishing technology to produce braille versions of periodicals and books. For example, since this newsletter is written on my computer, the disk could be used directly with a braille printer. Fantastic!

I'm looking forward to as many of us as possible meeting each other on the 24th. And for those who can't attend this time, I hope you'll be in touch with us to give ideas and get support.

Bi Bi,

Nov. 1991